

SECRET - US OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

APPENDIX "A"

This is UNEVALUATED

The UL'YanOVSK Area

25X1

IndexParagraph

Introduction	1
General Information	2
Terrain, Soil and Drainage	3 - 4
Population and Settlement	5
UL'YanOVSK Town	6 - 18
Industrial Enterprises	
in the UL'YanOVSK Area	19
Roads	20 - 23
Life on Collective Farms	24 - 31
Morals and Corruption ("Blat")	32 - 42
The Amnesty	43

Annexe to Appendix "A" - Sketch of  
the main transit roads in UL'YanOVSK.

25X1

General Information

2. Information supplied in this Appendix covers the part of the UL'YanOVSK Province which extends along the western bank of the VOLGA and includes UL'YanOVSK itself. That is the only part of the U.S.S.R. which Informant knows well. He has never been on the eastern bank of the river except to CHASOVNYa village situated opposite UL'YanOVSK. West of the VOLGA Informant's native area extends in a radius of approximately forty to sixty kilometres from UL'YanOVSK town.

Terrain, Soil and Drainage

3. A chain of hills runs along the western bank of the VOLGA. This hill range is narrow to the north of UL'YanOVSK and it widens south of the town. The southern part is intersected by steep and deep valleys and river canyons descending mainly eastwards to the VOLGA bank. Further to the West is undulating country intersected by numerous small rivers. Informant stated that the soil

SECRET - US OFFICIALS ONLY

/in this part ...

- 2 -

in this part of the UL'YanOVSK Province is fertile and black, mixed in some places with clay and very little sand. There are not many woods in the area described. To the north of UL'YanOVSK, the hills which form the western bank of the VOLGA are covered by fairly thick forests. Another wooded area extends approximately twenty kilometres south of UL'YanOVSK along the western slopes of the VOLGA hill range. West of UL'YanOVSK, between BARATAEVKA and TET'YuSHEVSK, stretch large peat-bogs.

4. According to Informant, it was rumoured in UL'YanOVSK that the construction of the KUJBYSHEV Hydro-Electric Plant would have a considerable effect upon the VOLGA in the UL'YanOVSK area. The raising of the level of the VOLGA waters would mean that the parts of land on both banks flooded every Spring would be permanently flooded. In addition CHASOVNYA village and the VOLODARSKIJ Ordnance Factory situated opposite UL'YanOVSK would be in immediate danger of inundation. Informant heard that either the VOLODARSKIJ Plant would be moved to a new site or a high concrete dam would be constructed to protect the factory premises from the VOLGA.

#### Population and Settlement

5. Informant stated that the UL'YanOVSK area is almost entirely populated by Russians. The only large town in the whole area is UL'YanOVSK. All the other settlements are village type, consisting of wooden huts with very few brick buildings.

#### UL'YanOVSK Town

6. UL'YanOVSK (formerly SIMBIRSK) is the District Chief Administrative Centre and the only industrial town in the area described.

7. The main part of the town is situated on the high and steep western bank of the VOLGA river, and stretches between the VOLGA and her tributary, the SVIYAGA which in this sector flows only approximately three kilometres away from the VOLGA. The new UL'YanOVSK extends to the west of the river SVIYAGA and is connected with the town centre by a bridge across the SVIYAGA river.

8. Southwest of the central part of the town extends the suburb KINDYAKOVKA incorporated several years ago into UL'YanOVSK.

9. A ravine approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  - 2 kilometres long runs westwards from the town centre to the SVIYAGA river. The western bank of the VOLGA at UL'YanOVSK

SECRET - US OFFICIALS ONLY /forms a ridge ...

forms a ridge approximately 150 meters high which completely commands the river and its low eastern bank. This ridge, which divides the town from the river, is called VENETs (The Crown). From there the built-up area descends westwards. There are only very few buildings on the VENETs which was originally planned as a public park. In its main square stands the LENIN memorial.

10. UL'YANOVSK has developed very considerably during the last twenty years. In the town centre a number of modern buildings have been constructed and some principal streets have been modernised. The highest buildings in UL'YANOVSK are three or four blocks of flats, each five to six storeys high, situated along the Lev Tolstoy Street. These blocks are occupied by the workers of the VOLODARSKIJ Ordnance Factory and are called "VOLODARSKIE DOMA". The town started to expand beyond the western bank of the SVIYAGA where some factories were built and workers settlements are under construction. On the left bank of the VOLGA, connected with the other side of the river by a very long railway bridge and by a ferry for road traffic and pedestrians, extends the village CHASOVNYA with its large petrol dump, railway station, and VOLODARSKIJ Plant.

11. Development and modernisation has changed the general features of UL'YANOVSK. There is now a mixture of pre-revolutionary, one or two-storey, brick or wooden houses, and recent modern buildings. There are also the wooden huts and blocks of flats of new workers' settlements.

12. In spite of the "modernisation" proclaimed by the local authorities UL'YANOVSK still lacks a good many essential installations. Water supply exists only in the newly built Government houses and in the new blocks of flats. The greater part of the population use a few water points ("kolonki") installed on the streets or carry water straight from the river. The sewage system exists only in the very new buildings. Street illumination is extremely poor. In fact the town is completely dark except for three main streets: Goncharov, Lev Tolstoy and Lenin Streets, which have some rather inadequate electric lighting. Informant stated that electric current is supplied by the town Electric Power Station located opposite the stadium on Minyaev Street and by some industrial enterprises, but the supply is still inadequate. There is not even enough current for the stronger electric bulbs in private flats, but for the sake of "modernisation" the electric tram lines are under construction.

/There are ...

SECRET - US OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET - US OFFICIALS ONLY

- 4 -

There are no gas works in UL'YANOVSK.

13. As far as through traffic is concerned UL'YANOVSK is practically a cul-de-sac. The town lies between two rivers: there are not enough bridges across the SVIYAGA whilst the VOLGA has no road bridge. The town is cut in two by a deep ravine and has steep slopes down to the VOLGA itself as well as to the old bed of the VOLGA ("STARITSa"). South of the town there are no proper through roads either North/South or East/West.

14. The main and only North/South transit road is Radishchev Street, with its extension Sovetskaya Street. But this road ends in a narrow, sharp bend to the east and connects with Goncharov Street which runs south-east and south. The latter ends in a narrow and steep descent towards the railway premises.

15. The West/East through roads are even more complicated. There is only one wooden bridge across the SVIYAGA river which forms a bottle-neck for traffic. Informant stated that there was a plan for constructing a new steel bridge but he did not know when or where it would be built.

16. There are two West/East thoroughfare roads:

- (a) The first one runs from the SVIYAGA bridge to the south, then east and north-east along Shevchenko Street along the northern side of the ravine. This road ends near Goncharov Street almost in a cul-de-sac.
- (b) The second one runs from the SVIYAGA bridge to the south, then eastwards along Lenin Street to Goncharov Street, or from Lenin Street southwards along the 12th September Street, then eastwards along Lev Tolstoy Street to Goncharov Street and then along Goncharov Street to the descent leading to the steam ferry across the VOLGA.

17. All these main streets (Goncharov, Lenin, Lev Tolstoy and Sovetskaya) bear two-line traffic and are metalled. The others, including also quite an important road running eastwards, Minyaev (formerly Gorkij) Street, are paved with cobbles (BULYZhNIK). The descent to the VOLGA ferry is very steep, badly cobbled and rather dangerous for motor-vehicles.

18. Informant knows the location of the following buildings:

- (a) The Party District Committee and the Communist Youth District Office, a large red brick building situated on the western side of the street connecting Shevchenko Street via the bridge across the ravine with Lenin Street. The building itself is on the southern side of the

SECRET - US OFFICIALS ONLY

/ravine ...

- 5 -

ravine. Informant did not remember the name of the street.

- (b) The District M.V.D. Headquarters occupies a large dark grey four-storey building on the corner of Goncharov and Karl Marx Street.
- (c) The M.V.D. Hostel is located in a four- or five-storey, large building situated on the northern side of Lenin Street, approximately 400 metres from Goncharov Street. This building was erected by German prisoners and was finished in 1948.
- (d) The Militia District (Oblast) Headquarters occupies a large three-storey building next to the Public Library, on the northern side of a street connecting the VENETs with Sovetskaya Street.
- (e) No. 1 Militia Station on Lev Tolstoy Street.  
No. 4 Militia Station on Lebedev Street.  
No. 5 Militia Station on Tret'yaya Ploshchadka, west of the river SVIYAGA.  
Informant did not know the location of Nos 2 and 3 Militia Stations.
- (f) The Prison, a large white stone building on 12th September Street.
- (g) The Forced Labour Camps are situated: two camps near the Avtozavod on the Pervaya Ploshchadka and one on the Tret'yaya Ploshchadka. All three are west of the SVIYAGA.
- (h) The Town Fire Station is located on Lenin Street 200 metres from the M.V.D. District Headquarters.
- (i) The Post Office and the Telephone Exchange occupy a modern-looking building on the corner of Goncharov and Lev Tolstoy Street.
- (j) The Party Executive Committee (OBISPOLKOM) is on Lev Tolstoy Street.
- (k) The Town Council (GORSOVET) is on Goncharov Street.
- (l) The State Bank is on Goncharov Street.
- (m) The Motor-vehicles Driving and Mechanics School (AVTOSHOLA), located on Lev Tolstoy Street 53, is subordinated to the State Traffic Control Office (GOSAVTOINSPEKTSIYA) which is an M.V.D. department.
- (n) Military Regional Recruiting Offices (VOENKOMAT) are Leninskij VOENKOMAT on Karl Marx Street and Stalinskij VOENKOMAT in the neighbourhood of the Party District Committee (OBKOM).
- (o) The Tank Troops Repair Shops are in Sovetskaya Street.
- (p) The Tank School is in Goncharov Street.

/(q) The Garrison ...

SECRET - US OFFICIALS ONLY

- 6 -

- (q) The Garrison Officers Club (DOM OFITSEROV) occupies part of the premises belonging to the Tank Repair Shops in Sovetskaya Street. Informant does not know any further details concerning military installations in the UL'YANOVSK area.
- (r) The Town Electric Power Station is on Minyaev Street (formerly Gorkij Street) opposite the stadium.
- (s) Railway Stations. Informant was unable to supply much information concerning railways. He knew of three railway stations in UL'YANOVSK: UL'YANOVSK PERVYJ (The new railway station), UL'YANOVSK VTOROJ, and KINDYAKOVKA Junction, with its marshalling yard. The latter connects the MOSCOW - UFA railway with the KAZAN'- STALINGRAD line.

#### Industrial Enterprises in the UL'YANOVSK Area

19. (a) The Motor Vehicles Factory (UL'YANOVSKIJ AVTOZAVOD) is situated in the new town, west of the river SVIYAGA and north of the UL'YANOVSK-BARATAJEVKA road. The factory occupies a large area in completely open country. There are a number of red brick buildings with glass roofs surrounded by numerous wooden huts, occupied by the factory workers. This part of the new town is called Pervaya PLOshChADKA. Informant stated that in 1952 the AVTOZAVOD ceased its work as assembly plant for the ZIS and GAZ trucks, and became an Ordnance Factory whose production was secret. This information was confirmed by Informant's friends who were in UL'YANOVSK on leave in 1954. They said that the factory at present is an ordnance plant, and according to local rumours manufactures Radar material (RADIOLOKATsIYa). Informant does not know any further details.
- (b) The VOLODARSKIJ Factory (ZAVOD IMENI VOLODARSKOVO) occupies a large area on the eastern bank of the VOLGA near the village of CHASOVNYA. The factory consists of a large number of white stone constructions with high stacks, and is situated in open country. The factory is fenced and guarded by numerous sentries. Informant stated that the VOLODARSKIJ Factory is considered the most important industrial enterprise in UL'YANOVSK. The plant was always a Secret Ordnance Factory; and the personnel signed special undertakings concerning the secrecy of production. Informant stated that during the war a large

SECRET - US OFFICIALS ONLY

/supply of ...

SECRET - US OFFICIALS ONLY

- 7 -

supply of copper sheeting was delivered to the factory and a large quantity of pure alcohol was used for production. The factory workers used to steal the alcohol and brew home-made vodka. The factory is on continuous production and works on a three shift system.

- (c) No. 650 Ordnance Factory is situated in the town centre in Karl Marx Street near the Town Market (GORODSKOJ BAZAR). In 1951 the factory was enlarged, occupying part of the town market. Informant knows that one of the factory's products was pistols, because one of his friends worked there and managed to steal one for himself.
- (d) No. 280 Ordnance Factory occupies quite a large area along Shevchenko Street, not far from No. 650 Factory. Informant does not know any details.
- (e) The "Z.M.D." Factory (ZAVOD MALOLITRAZHNYKH DVIGATELEJ), a small combustion engines factory, situated on Kirov Street in the town centre. Informant does not know any further details.
- (f) No. 10 Ordnance Factory. Informant does not know any details concerning situation and production of this factory. He said that one ordnance plant in UL'YANOVSK (possibly No. 10 Factory) produces an acid dangerous to health. He knows that workers there are supplied with large quantities of fresh milk in order to neutralise the effects of this acid. The factory is rather a small one.
- (g) The KIROV Textile Factory is situated in the town centre in Sovetskaya Street. The factory has branches at ISHEEVKA and at YAZYKOV.
- (h) A Meat Factory (MYASOKOMBINAT) is situated on Kirov Street.
- (i) Petrol Dumps. Informant knows the following large petrol dumps in UL'YANOVSK itself and outside the town:  
CHASOVNYA, on the left bank of the VOLGA, opposite the town. There is a large POL dump on the river bank, connected with the UL'YANOVSK Railway Junction by a siding. There are numerous large petrol tanks there. This petrol dump will probably be moved to another site in connection with the construction of the KUJBYSHLEV Hydro-Electric Plant and the consequent danger of flooding.  
UL'YANOVSK. There is a large petrol dump on the northern outskirts of the town on the western side of the ISHEEVKA road.

/VYRY Station ...

SECRET - US OFFICIALS ONLY

- 8 -

VYRY Station, (38 kilometres west of UL'YanOVSK on the INZA railway).  
CHUFAROVO Station, (76 kilometres west of UL'YanOVSK on the INZA railway). Just outside both these stations there are large petrol dumps consisting of numerous huge tanks.

Roads

25X1

20. [redacted] the roads in the VOLGA area around UL'YanOVSK are earth tracks of different width, generally unpaved, or, if paved on certain sectors, then only with enormous cobbles, which cause road users to seek a smoother path along earth tracks which usually run on either side of the cobbled road.

21. There are three main tracks connecting UL'YanOVSK with other parts of the U.S.S.R.:

- (a) Leaving the town along Radishchev Street there is a road running north-west and north to BUINSK via ISHEEVKA on the river SVIYAGA (approximately eighteen kilometres from UL'YanOVSK. The cobbled surface ends at the town boundary and from that point there are several kilometres of sand: this changes near LAISHEVKA (a bridge across the SVIYAGA) into a heavy black earth road. This road is passable during the dry summer weather or in frosty autumn weather before the snow falls. The maximum speed for lorries during the good weather is 35-40 kilometres per hour. During the heavy rains this road is impassable even with chains.

East of the UL'YanOVSK-ISHEEVKA road extend large woods which are used, according to Informant, by the Tank troops from UL'YanOVSK as training grounds. He was unable to describe the type of tanks, but he said that they were very powerful, and in spite of snow and mud, as well as very difficult country (steep valleys, ravines and hills covered by trees and bushes), they managed to negotiate these woods without great difficulty.

- (b) The main road connecting UL'YanOVSK with the west runs across the SVIYAGA bridge, through the new workers' settlements of wooden huts and some blocks of flats (called FERVAJA, VTORAJA and TRET'YAYA PLOSHCHADKA) to the BARATAEVKA kolkhoz: then via TYETYUSHEVSKOE in the direction of TAGAEVO and BELYJ KLYUCH. Between UL'YanOVSK and BARATAEVKA the

/road is ...

SECRET - US OFFICIALS ONLY



SECRET - US OFFICIALS ONLY

- 9 -

road is cobbled; for the next four kilometres there is a gravel surface (ShChEBEN) and when the gravel ends there is a black earth track. Informant described this road as good in all seasons between UL'YANOVSK and BARATAEVKA, but further to the west, to TAGAEVO, as extremely bad. During the heavy snow falls the road sector between UL'YANOVSK and the workers' dormitory suburb of BARATAEVKA is constantly cleared of snow because there is a regular bus service.

- (c) The main road southwards runs from Goncharov Street crossing the railway and then via VINNOVKA-SOLDATSKAYA TASHLA to TERENCE. This road is unpaved and extremely bad. Its branch road running south-east from VINNOVKA via KREMENKI and further to SENGILEJ on the VOLGA is "a complete disaster" according to Informant (ODNA GIBEL'). The road runs across the hill range and there are dangerous descents and steep ascents, potholes, and all sorts of natural obstacles. This road, as well as the main road to TERENCE, is not maintained.

22. All local tracks in the area described, e.g., ISHEEVKA-NOVIY UREN and BARATAEVKA-KARLINSKAYA to the north-west of the town, and others, are "disastrous" and often utterly impassable for motor vehicles.

23. Informant stated that according to the traffic regulations the maximum speed for lorries is 25-30 kilometres per hour within the town boundaries and 35 kilometres per hour outside the town. But the speed depends chiefly on road conditions, and the road conditions depend to a great extent on weather. Mud in spring and autumn, and snow in winter are the main factors. Informant stated that the average depth of snow on roads is 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 metres. In valleys and hollows it might be as much as 10-15 metres, particularly during the February and March blizzards. Cross country traffic is possible in certain areas during the summer or autumn dry weather. In winter it is out of the question except on rivers like the VOLGA or SVIYAGA, where the ice is strong enough to bear any heavily loaded lorry; and which are passable provided the snow is not too deep.

#### Life on the Collective Farms

24. Informant could not supply much information concerning life on the collective farms. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

/to the ...

SECRET - US OFFICIALS ONLY

- 10 -

25X1

He watched the life of collective farmers from a distance, and he was preoccupied with his own job and his busy life in UL'YANOVSK. He personally believes that the amalgamation of the collective farms has been well organised in the UL'YANOVSK area, and said that conditions have improved considerably in the villages since the amalgamation. He based his opinion on information received in 1952 from his relatives in the ISHEEVKA region. They wrote that peasants there were paid three kilogrammes of bread for one working day (TRUDODEN). But he pointed out that in many villages these three kilogrammes were only theoretical, and were reduced to one kilogramme or even to 800 grammes for one working day, because all collective farms which did not fulfil the Government deliveries of grain during the last ten years were forced to deliver to the Government stores their grain surplus on account of their debts. Further sign of improvement, he said, was the increase of privately owned cows, sheep and pigs, the sale of which enabled collective farmers to obtain more cash for buying manufactured goods.

25. This improvement was not on the same scale in all kolkhozes, however, and according to Informant much depends on the chairman of a collective farm - his abilities and his connections with the higher authorities, and whether he belongs to a powerful and well organised racket ("BIAT") or not.

26. In spite of the increase of privately owned livestock and ready money, in almost all the kolkhozes which Informant knew, conditions of life did not improve in many respects. Peasants were still unable to build new and better houses, they had insufficient hay and fodder for their livestock, insufficient wood for heating, and in many farms no wood at all, using peat if available or stealing timber from the woods. During the spring and summer before the harvest they are always under-nourished, and they never have enough cash to buy sufficient manufactured goods.

27. There is still a very acute lack of man-power in the collective farms, and the authorities are unable to prevent the youth of both sexes from moving to the towns and industrial centres. This constant and spontaneous flight of youth people from the country to the towns was explained very simply by Informant. "In a town, one can easily earn 500 roubles per month working eight hours daily. In a kolkhoz, to obtain 500 roubles in cash one has to sell at least 15 sacks of grain; but when and how can one get 15 sacks of grain every month?" Lack

/of amusements ...

SECRET - US OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET - US OFFICIALS ONLY

- 11 -

of amusements and dullness of life on collective farms are also reasons for running away to the towns. The standard of civilisation of the population in the UL'YANOVSK Province is still very low. An average youth needs very little for his entertainment; but he likes to drink spirits and to go to the cinema, and for this he needs money. In the villages he has no money and no cinemas. He can drink only very bad and comparatively cheap home-made "samogon" and amuse himself by fighting. In towns he has money for good but expensive vodka, he has cinemas, he can also fight, and he has a great deal of opportunity to steal things from his factory in order to increase his income.

28. Even the M.T.S. (Motor and Tractor Stations) in the kolkhozes, where the personnel is much better paid than the farm workers, cannot satisfy the young people. An average M.T.S. driver earns 350-400 roubles net per month, which enables him to survive but not to live.

25X1

25X1

29. One of the typical Soviet "educational" methods was compulsory re-settlement of collective farmers in Siberia for a limited period of time. People who did not fulfil the plan or were constantly late for work, absentees, or those who were undisciplined, etc., were sent at twenty-four hours' notice to the transit camps (PERESYLNYY LAGER), and from there were deported for from five to ten years to various Asiatic kolkhozes. Informant himself in 1948-49 knew the special transit camp at KINDYAKOVKA (suburb of UL'YANOVSK) which was the deportee assembly point. This system of punishment was introduced officially and deportation of a farmer's family was a matter which was arranged between the chairman of a kolkhoz and the local M.V.D.. The procedure was very simple. A kolkhoz chairman could easily get rid of undesirable people, and the victims could not complain because they were not prisoners or even deportees, but "free citizens" advised by the local M.V.D. to move at twenty-four hours' notice, and with very limited baggage, from their native village to a strange part of the country two thousand miles eastwards.

30. When the Amnesty was proclaimed in 1953, people thus "re-settled" were not allowed to return to their native areas because they were not serving a sentence and therefore were not subject to the Amnesty.

/31. There is ...

SECRET - US OFFICIALS ONLY

31. There is an entirely different scheme for the free re-settlement of kolkhoz farmers, by which volunteers are recruited to work in other districts. Informant stated that in the Province Centres there are special offices where kolkhoz farmers are recruited for work in other areas where lack of man-power is acute. People willing to move are shown lists of areas offering work and settlement, and they make their own choice from these lists. These settlers have to leave all their property except personal belongings in their native collective farm, and on the basis of receipts issued by their original kolkhoz are supplied with all the necessary items in their new place of residence. They travel to their destination at Government expense. Informant did not know any further details. He said that he saw only seven families who went from his native kolkhoz "DRUZHBA" to VOROSHILOVGRAD Province full of hope and who, after three years stay there, came back disappointed and in a deplorable state.

#### Morals and Corruption

32. Owing to the moral atmosphere of his upbringing and the low standard of civilization to which he was accustomed, Informant tended to speak of the moral standards prevalent in the U.S.S.R. and of the various rackets ("BLAT") in tones almost of admiration and pride. He was, however, in abstract, quite capable of distinguishing between right and wrong. "BLAT" (a racket), he said, works throughout UL'YANOVSK Province, and through "personal approach" almost anything could be done in UL'YANOVSK itself or in the country districts.

33. "UL'YANOVSK is an unhappy town. There is always something wrong with the higher authorities," was Informant's introduction to his description of the workings of "BLAT" in UL'YANOVSK. He stated that for many years there had been constant changes among members of the Party Committee, M.V.D. officers, Court of Justice and other Government offices. The most disastrous year for the "higher authorities" was 1947 when in February many of them were caught red-handed by the M.G.B. and lost their positions - but suffered no further punishment. The first of the victims was the Secretary of the Province Party Committee, TERENCEV, who had embezzled at least 170,000 roubles. TERENCEV was not brought to trial, but was merely dismissed and became a Deputy Manager in an industrial enterprise. Informant believes that TERENCEV was saved from punishment because he was a veteran Communist and a distinguished former partisan. He was replaced by another racketeer BOCHKARYOV, whose term of office was also short-lived. In

/the same ...

SECRET - US OFFICIALS ONLY

the same year, 1949, the Head of the Province M.V.D., Colonel GRAKOV, a well-known "BLATNIK" who was involved in various affairs, was suddenly dismissed but was merely transferred as Deputy Head to another Province. TERENCEV and GRAKOV were the best examples of a properly organized "BLAT" working successfully and rescuing its members in case of disaster.

34. Much less fortunate was the District Prosecutor, KARPOV, who also in February 1947, after many years of prosperous "BLAT" activities was sentenced to ten years imprisonment for releasing criminals for money. One of KARPOV's successful operations was the release, for 7,000 roubles, of a criminal who deserved a sentence of twenty-five years. In such large scale operations KARPOV was supported by the judge concerned who also took his share of the bribe.

35. [redacted] As Informant described<sup>25X1</sup> him, he was a hooligan and racketeer of the highest grade. He robbed shops and stores, always possessed a couple of stolen pistols, fought successfully against the Militia, was five times arrested but never sentenced. Every time he was arrested his mother mobilised all her resources, and a clever counsel, and after a time the young man was released without any consequences. It was the clever counsel who made the necessary "arrangements". The prosecutor and the judge were duly paid; the counsel was also paid and the matter was settled without any trace in the Court archives. The end of this young man's career is of possible interest. He married a local girl, suddenly ceased his activities and disappeared from UL'YANOVSK. He went to the Kuril' Islands where new Russian settlers were badly needed and well paid, and where the local authorities paid little attention to people's past. He obtained a good job there as a mechanic and driver and became, as Informant said, "an honest citizen".<sup>25X1</sup>

37. "If I am a crook and my brother serves with the Militia, I will never be sentenced." That is the unwritten law and describes the traditional attitude

/of the ...

SECRET - US OFFICIALS ONLY

- 14 -

25X1

of the Militia personnel towards their relatives who are involved in unlawful affairs or are professional criminals and hooligans. That is the "automatic family BLAT" which works smoothly. Its members are absolutely safe and always pay what they owe their Militia friends for assisting them. Apart from these family connections, there are also BLATS based on personal friendships and purely business arrangements between the Militia and the local underworld.

38. There are different methods by which the Militia "rescue" crooks or hooligans. Sometimes they warn their "customers" beforehand, sometimes, when they have already been arrested, they make all the necessary arrangements to release them, and in some cases they arrest their "customer" in the presence of many witnesses and then release them as soon as the watching crowd has dispersed. This last method is used in the case of serious fighting in the streets outside pubs, cinemas, etc..

25X1

/successful...

SECRET - US OFFICIALS ONLY

40. Informant stated that to be released from military service is quite an easy procedure. The military doctors examining Army recruits are usually very helpful, provided that a client is recommended by a trusted person and the Army doctor is paid in cash. The best way is to have a "private chat" with the Chief Medical Officer presiding over the Medical Board, and he makes the necessary arrangements to change a perfectly healthy young man into a sick one.

41. The rotten atmosphere, low standard of life, lack of moral restraint, as well as corrupted justice and the hated but often terrorised and powerless Militia, are the main reasons for the enormous number of all types of crimes committed in UL'YANOVSK.

42. Informant stressed the fact that most young peasant lads who are decent and honest while at home very soon become hooligans or criminals when they move to the towns. He believes that the need to earn more money, coupled with drink and the influence of their town friends, very soon demoralises them. The experienced boys teach the youngsters how to steal and how to rob innocent citizens of their clothes in the dark streets. They learn, too, how to make knives and even pistols in the factory shops from stolen materials. Informant also believes that military service is the best remedy for these boys. Hard living conditions in the Army, the severe discipline and the atmosphere in the

/Field units ...

SECRET - US OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

- 16 -

Field Units changes many of these hooligans and crooks into honest citizens. He said that many former young criminals return from the Army with an entirely different outlook. They are proud of being soldiers, are more civilised and look for a good job so that they can get married. He pointed out, however, that it is only in the Field Units that the officers teach their men how to be real citizens. In the Administrative formations soldiers usually remain as they were in their civilian life, or become demoralised.

#### The Amnesty

43. Informant was not in the U.S.S.R. when the 1953 Amnesty was proclaimed, but he collected a certain amount of information concerning the results of it from his friends who visited Russia soon afterwards. He pointed out that he himself and all his fellow soldiers were deeply disappointed by the Amnesty. He said "VOROSHILOV released from prison all the hooligans, but the honest political prisoners are still there". In the olden days, he said, things were very bad but at least crooks were punished. Now they are all free, and things are getting worse almost every day. Soon it will be the same as it was in 1945-47 which were the worst years he remembers. He stated that many of the released criminals had already been re-arrested and sentenced again to long terms of imprisonment, up to twenty-five years.

SECRET - US OFFICIALS ONLY



